

## The Lady of the Mount.

(Continued from Page 6.)

It threw a shimmer on the deep-embroidered gold of her hair; the sweep-  
ing hales veiled the half-disdainful,  
down-turned look in her brown eyes.  
"Oh, perhaps, you are one of those  
who think the peasants will some day  
while the lords and ladies stand?"  
"I don't know," he managed to an-  
swer, but got up, only to appear more  
forward.

"You do not seem to know very  
much, indeed!" she returned, her tone  
changing to one of cold severity. "Not  
enough, perhaps, to perceive the mis-  
take you may cause! That play of  
yours, which I witnessed today—"

"You! Today? Your Ladyship  
—"

"Yes," imperiously, "I was there!  
I heard and saw the effect it had  
on the people; how it stirred all  
their baser passions! But you, or  
more, could not know—or care,  
thinking only of the soul—that, in-  
stead of teaching a lesson, the piece  
would only move them to anger, or  
resentment."

"—your Ladyship—great lords have  
commended the play—"

"Great lords!" she began, but  
stopped; regarded her listener and  
shrugged her shoulders.

A few moments silence lasted, the  
fellow apparently not knowing what  
to say, or if he was expected to say  
anything, while, for her part, the girl  
no longer looked at him, but at the  
flowers, taking one, which she turned  
in her fingers.

"Your Ladyship would command  
me—"

"To give the play no more!"  
"But—" Expostulation shone from  
his look.

"In which event you shall be suf-  
fered to go free tomorrow."

"But my livelihood! What shall I  
do if I am forbidden to earn—"

She gave him a colder look. "I have  
spoken to the commandant; told him  
what I had seen, and that I did not  
think you intended to make trouble.  
Your case will, therefore, not be re-  
ported to his Excellency. Only," with  
a warning flash, "if you are again  
caught giving the play, you must ex-  
pect to receive your deserts."

"Of course! If your Ladyship com-  
mands!" dejectedly.

"I do! But, as an offset to the cor-  
pers you might otherwise receive, I  
will give you a sum of money suffi-  
cient to compensate you."

"Your Ladyship is so generous!" He  
made an uncouth gesture of gratitude  
and covetousness. "May I ask your  
Ladyship how much—"

"How much?" scornfully. "But I  
suppose—"

The words died away; her glance  
fell; lingered on the hand he had  
extended. Muscular, shapely, it  
seemed not adapted to the servile  
gesture; was most unlike the hand  
of God or clown. Moreover, it was  
marked with a number of wounds,  
half-healed, which caught and held  
her look.

"Of course, I am so poor, your Lady-  
ship," he began, in yet more abject  
tone, but stopped, attracted in turn  
by the direction of her gaze; then,  
meeting it, quickly withdrew the hand  
and thrust it into his pocket. Not  
in time, however, to prevent a startled  
light, a swift gleam of recollection  
from springing into her eyes! The  
very movement itself—ironically  
enough!—was not without precedent.

"You!" She recoiled from him, "The  
Black—"

"As a man who realizes he has be-  
trayed himself, he bit his lips; but at-  
tempted no further subterfuge. The  
shambling figure straightened; the  
dull eyes grew steady; the bold self-  
possession she remembered well on  
another occasion again marked his  
bearing.

"Your Ladyship has discerning  
eyes," he remarked quietly, but as  
he spoke glanced and moved a little  
toward the window.

My lady stood as if dazed. He, the  
Black Seigneur, there, in the palace!  
Mechanically she raised her hand to  
her breast; she was very pale. On  
the very next night, grown  
quite a great into a flood of varia-  
tions, a thousand trills and full-  
blown notes filled the room.

"I stand now," at length she  
found voice, "why that fancy came to  
me, when I was listening to the  
play of the platform. But why have  
you come—to the very Mount itself?"  
Her voice trembled a little. "You!  
on the beach the people tried to stop  
you—"

"You saw that, too?"

"And you knew the play would  
make trouble! You wanted it to,"  
she cried. "For what purpose? To get  
into the upper part of the Mount? To  
have them arrest—bring you here?"  
She looked at him with sudden ter-  
ror. "My father! Was it to—"

A low, distinct rapping at the door  
had entered, interrupted them.  
He started and looked fearfully  
around. At the same time the moun-  
tain stepped back to the side of a  
great bronze in front of the balcony,  
where, standing in the shadow, he  
was screened.

"Elise!" a voice called out.

The flower the girl had been hold-  
ing fell to the floor.

"My—" she began, when the door  
opened and the Governor stood on the  
threshold.

### CHAPTER XIX.

The Mountebank and the Governor.  
In his hand the Governor held a  
paper; his usually austere face wore  
a slightly proprietary expression,  
while the eyes he turned upon her,  
as slowly he entered the room, sug-  
gested a respite of difference. Pau-  
sing, he toyed with the mistle, turn-  
ing it around and around in his fin-  
gers, as if something in his thoughts  
were revolving with it. Had he been  
more watchful of her, less bent on  
some matter uppermost in his mind,  
he could not have failed to mark the  
pallor of his face, or the agitation  
written there. As it was, his glance  
swept without studying.

"I hoped to find you here," he be-  
gan complacently; "hoped that you  
had not yet retired."

She made some faint response, but  
her voice, despite herself, wavered.  
Whereupon his look sharpened; then  
almost immediately relaxed; con-  
straint on her part could easily be  
accounted for; not many hours had  
elapsed since their last interview.

"Yes," he continued, "I have here to  
consider," indicating a paper he held,  
"a rather important matter." He wait-  
ed a moment before adding: "A mat-  
ter that concerns you!"

"That concerns me?" Her hands  
tightened.

"Yes."

"Since it is important," she said  
bitterly, "would it not—shall we not  
leave it until tomorrow? I—I am  
rather tired tonight, and—"

"What?" he returned in the same  
unruffled tone. "Would you propose  
considering the command of the  
King?"

"Command?" she repeated nervously.  
"Of the King?"

"Or request," which is the same."

"But—" she began, and stopped;  
held by a sound, as if some one was  
lingering near the window.

"Shall I read it, or—"

She had started to look behind her;  
but abruptly caught herself, and  
seemed about to frame some irrele-  
vant response, when his voice went  
on: "The King desires to change the  
date set for your marriage with his  
kinsman, the Marquis de Beauvilliers."

"Change?" she echoed.

"Yes! to hasten it." If the Govern-  
or had expected from her hostility,  
or perverseness, he was greatly  
disappointed; the girl evinced neither  
pleasure nor disapproval; only stood  
in the same attitude of expectancy,  
with head half turned.

"His Majesty's reasons for this  
step—"

"Can't we—can't we, at least, post-  
pone considering them?"

Again he regarded her more closely.  
"What better time than the present?"

"But I don't want—"

"Elise!" A slight frown appeared  
on his brow. "His Majesty," once  
more looking at the paper, "hints at  
an important political appointment he  
desires to confer on the Marquis de  
Beauvilliers which would take him  
abroad; but whether as ambassador,  
or as governor in the colonies, his  
Majesty does not disclose. Obviously,  
however, the bestowing of the honor—  
a high one, no doubt!—depends on  
his early marriage, and a wife to  
grace the position. The letter,"  
weighing it, "is a tentative offer; the  
certain precursor of a fuller com-  
munication when he has learned our—  
your—pleasure."

She did not at once express it;  
indeed, at the moment, seemed scarce-  
ly to have comprehended; her glance,  
which had swept furtively behind  
when he was studying the document,  
returned more uneasily to his, but not  
before he had caught the backward  
look.

"Well!" he said with a touch of as-  
perity. "Well!" he repeated, when  
his gaze, following the direction hers  
had taken, paused.

Although well lighted in the center  
by a great Venetian chandelier, the  
far ends of the spacious hall lay  
somewhat in obscurity; notably, the  
space adorned with three plants  
and a life-size bronze bust of the em-  
peress, the balcony. It was on this  
dim recess the Governor perceived that  
eye to rest; at first, curiously, then  
with a sudden apprehension of interest.

"Elise!" he muttered, as before his  
lady could prevent him. "She had  
been mindful so to do, walked quickly  
forward; but as he advanced a white  
figure stepped boldly out from behind  
that partial screen. With a sharp ex-  
clamation, which found a startled  
echo from the girl, the Governor  
stopped; stepped back—far as the  
table.

"What mummery is this!" His lips  
shaped the words unthinkingly, his  
hand, reaching out with the first  
startled instinct of defense, touched  
the bell.

"Your Ladyship—" On the op-  
posite side of the room was the door  
thrown suddenly open. The look of  
expectancy on the face of the com-  
mandant, who had so promptly ap-  
peared, gave way to one of surprise;  
peered, gave way to one of surprise;  
peered, gave way to one of surprise;

"What mummery is this!" His lips  
shaped the words unthinkingly, his  
hand, reaching out with the first  
startled instinct of defense, touched  
the bell.

"Your Ladyship—" On the op-  
posite side of the room was the door  
thrown suddenly open. The look of  
expectancy on the face of the com-  
mandant, who had so promptly ap-  
peared, gave way to one of surprise;  
peered, gave way to one of surprise;

"What mummery is this!" His lips  
shaped the words unthinkingly, his  
hand, reaching out with the first  
startled instinct of defense, touched  
the bell.

"Your Ladyship—" On the op-  
posite side of the room was the door  
thrown suddenly open. The look of  
expectancy on the face of the com-  
mandant, who had so promptly ap-  
peared, gave way to one of surprise;  
peered, gave way to one of surprise;

"What mummery is this!" His lips  
shaped the words unthinkingly, his  
hand, reaching out with the first  
startled instinct of defense, touched  
the bell.

"Your Ladyship—" On the op-  
posite side of the room was the door  
thrown suddenly open. The look of  
expectancy on the face of the com-  
mandant, who had so promptly ap-  
peared, gave way to one of surprise;  
peered, gave way to one of surprise;

"What mummery is this!" His lips  
shaped the words unthinkingly, his  
hand, reaching out with the first  
startled instinct of defense, touched  
the bell.

motionless to the girl; but the face  
was averted and his Excellency could  
not see the sudden whiteness of her  
cheek; could he regarded the officer.

"Your majesty and summons with  
clarity," he declared to this last sub-  
ject of his scrutiny.

The commandant reddened. "I—  
your Excellency—the truth is, I was  
waiting without at the door."

"What you have just stated," re-  
turned the Governor, "is what I  
should like to know, however," with  
sudden change of tone, "is why you  
were stationed there?"

"To take this mountebank player  
away, when it pleased her laughing  
to—"

"Yes! to take him away!" Interrupt-  
ed the lady in hurried tones, the im-  
itation of which she strove to conceal.

"And I was about to call him, when—"  
The Governor continued to address  
the commandant. "You brought him  
here!" indignantly.

"Yes! your Excellency—a stupid  
fellow we arrested for making trouble  
—"



"He had intended no mischief."

with his dolls, and—just when her  
Ladyship's permission—" awkwardly  
turning to the Governor's daughter, "I  
will explain."

To this the girl, however, made no  
answer; as if fascinated, watched  
them, the commandant, her father, the  
still, white figure at one side—not far  
away!

"I think," the Governor spoke soft-  
ly, "you will do that, now!"

"Exactly, your Excellency! It hap-  
pened in this wise," and not without  
evidence of constraint and hesitation,  
the officer slowly related the story of  
the disturbance on the platform; the  
taking into custody of the rogues and  
knaves, and my lady's interest in the  
vandalism done whose play had oc-  
casioned the riot.

"Because it was seditions, designed  
to set authority at naught!" Interrupt-  
ed the listener, grimly eyeing for an  
instant the motionless form of the  
mountebank.

"On the contrary, your Excellency!"  
quickly. "Her Ladyship assured me it  
was the loyal and faithful sentiments  
of the play that caused the unruly  
rascals to make trouble, and that  
the clown deserved no punishment be-  
cause he had intended no mischief."

"Her Ladyship?" The Governor's  
brows went suddenly up. "How," he  
asked at length in a voice yet softer,  
"should her Ladyship have known  
about the 'loyal and faithful senti-  
ments' of a piece given in the town,  
before a crowd of brayers?"

"Because I was a spectator!" said  
his daughter, a red spot now on her  
cheek; changing lights in her eyes.

"A spectator," repeated, in mild  
surprise, the Governor.

"I will explain—after!" she added  
in tones, low, constrained.

"Hum!" His Excellency's glance  
swept to the commandant.

"Her Ladyship was so good," mur-  
mured the latter in some embarrass-  
ment and yet feeling obliged to speak,  
with that bright insistent gaze of the  
high official of the Mount fastened  
upon him, "as to inform me that, de-  
siring to mingle with the people, and,  
knowing it might not be expedient  
to do so—in her own proper charac-  
ter—her Ladyship saw fit to assume  
a humbler costume—that of a Norman  
peasant maid—"

From the Governor's lips fell an  
exclamation; he seemed about to speak  
sternly, but the words failed on his  
lips. Instead, "Continue!" he said  
curtly.

"That, I believe, is all, your Excel-  
lency, except that her Ladyship ex-  
pressed the desire the stupid fellow  
do set at liberty on the morrow, as  
not worth the keeping—and—"

The mountebank started, as expect-  
ing now the Lady Elise to speak; to  
denounce him, perhaps; but it was his  
Excellency who interrupted.

"You were going to do so? To set  
him at liberty?"

"I, your Excellency! The auberge  
des voleurs is a full of the scum of  
the sands, there is hardly room for  
them to squirm; but if your Excellency  
wishes all these petty rascals  
brought before you—"

"Well, well!" The Governor looked  
at his hand, crushed impatiently  
paper he held. "Here is much ado  
about nothing! Have you," to his

daughter, "ought to add?"

She lifted her head, standing in a  
careless pose—apparently regarding  
what was taking place, the moun-  
tain at the Governor's question—  
glanced from him to her. Al-  
though but an instant his look was  
lady's, in that brief interval, it  
all that was lost on the other side of  
a sudden, desperate purpose, the lady,  
hitherto, his warning glance  
conveyed. At the same time she was  
tired, or fanned she did, the hand  
thrust into his breast, as if grasping  
some weapon concealed there, drew  
out a little, while simultaneously lead-  
ing emphasis to the fact, he moved a  
shade nearer the Governor, her father!

"Nothing," said the girl hastily;  
"nothing!"

"Then," his Excellency waved a  
thin, aristocratic hand, "take him  
away!"

"And your—her Ladyship's instruc-  
tions?" murmured the commandant.

"At to be obeyed, of course!" an-  
swered the Governor, complacently  
regarding his letter.

"You hear, fool!" said in a low voice  
the commandant, as he approached  
the clown. "Thank his Excellency!  
Don't you know enough! Good! Good!"

But the man made at first no effort  
to obey; immovable as a statue,  
seemed not to see the speaker, and  
gave more, the officer half-whispered  
his indignation.

"But," the Governor turned.

"I thank your Excellency! Your Ex-  
cellency is most kind!" said the  
mountebank in a loud, emphatic tone.

"And her Ladyship?" prompted the  
officer.

"The clown looked at the girl; her  
breath came fast through her parted  
lips.

"Thank, fool!" To her Ladyship you  
also owe much."

"March!" repeated the clown, a  
spark in the dull gaze still fastened  
upon her.

"Is that all you can say?"

"Take him away!" My lady spoke  
almost wildly.

"Yes! take him away!" With a  
questioning gesture his Excellency put  
an end to the matter. "Am I to be  
interrupted in important affairs by  
every miserable farceur, or buffoon,  
you pick up on the beach? To the  
devil with the fellow!"

When the door had closed on the  
mountebank and the commandant, he  
turned to his daughter. "A misdeed  
trick!" Proudly his Excellency  
regarded her. "To have gone into the  
town and mingled with the rabble!  
But," shaking his head and then suf-  
fering that expression of disapproval  
to relax into severity, "say no more  
about it! Here," indicating the letter,  
"is something of greater moment, to  
be attended to and answered!"

### CHAPTER XX.

The Mountebank and the Soldier.  
As the mountebank walked out of  
the apartment of the Governor's  
daughter, he drew himself up with an  
air of expectancy, like a man prepar-  
ing for some sudden climax. Once be-  
yond the threshold, his eyes glanced  
furtively back at the closed door, and,  
descending the stairs to the floor be-  
low, he carried his head a little for-  
ward, as if intent to catch unwanted  
sound or outcry. But no raised voice  
or unusual noise reached his ear, and  
his footsteps, as the party issued forth  
into the street, responded briskly to  
the soldiers' pace. Still with the same  
air of strained attention, now mingled  
with a trace of perplexity, he followed  
his guard until called upon to stop.

"You are to sleep here!" As he  
spoke, the commandant opened the  
door of what seemed a low out-build-  
ing, not very far from the general bar-  
racks, and motioned the mountebank  
to enter. The latter, after glancing  
quickly at the speaker and the sol-  
diers behind, bent to step across the  
dark threshold, and, still stooping, on  
account of the low roof, looked around  
him. By the faint glimmer of light  
from a lantern one of the soldiers  
held, the few details of that squalid  
place were indistinctly revealed: A  
single stall whose lone-eared occupant  
turned its head inquiringly at the ab-  
rupt appearance of a companion  
lodger; bits of harness and a number  
of traps hanging from pegs on the  
wall and, near the door, on the  
ground, a bundle of grass, rough fod-  
der from the marshes close by the  
shore. This last salt-smelling heap,  
the officer, peering in with a fastidious  
sniff, indicated.

"That's your bed! A softer one than  
you would have had but for the Lady  
Elise!"

The prisoner returned no answer,  
and in the voice of a man whose hu-  
mor was not of the best, the command-  
ant uttered a brief command. A mo-  
ment or two the light continued to  
pass fitfully about the stable; then it  
and the moving shadows vanished; a  
key grated in the door, and the sound  
of the officer's receding footsteps was  
followed by the diminishing clatter of  
men's heels on the flagging stone. Not  
until both had fairly died away in the  
distance and the silence was broken  
only by certain indications of restive-  
ness from the stall, did the prisoner  
move.

"(To be continued.)"

One of the most common ailments that  
hard working people are afflicted with is  
Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.

Chamberlain's Cough, Croup, and  
Whooping Cough Remedy. It is a  
simple, safe, and effective remedy for  
all these ailments, and is sold by all  
druggists.